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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 002758

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR/SE, NEA/NGA, PMAT; OSD FOR ISA AND ISP;JCS  
FOR J5; EUCOM FOR J5, POLAD; CENTCOM FOR J5 AND POLAD

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TAGS: [PREL](#), [MARR](#), [MOPS](#), [TU](#), [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: IRAQ/STABILIZATION: TURKS PRESS FOR GOT  
CONTRIBUTION TO UK MULTINATIONAL DIVISION

REF: ANKARA 2553

1. (U) Classified by Ambassador Robert Pearson. Reasons  
1.5 (b) and (d).

2. (C) During an informal breakfast meeting on April 27 with visiting Congressman Robert Wexler (D-FL), MFA D/US Ilkin raised the GOT's wish to play a role in any stabilization force in Iraq. Ilkin told the Congressman that the US may have "misunderstood" Turkey's request to contribute to the stabilization force, thinking that Turkey's decision was contingent on external funding. Ilkin emphasized that Turkey wants to contribute even if it has to pay its own way. He went on to say that Turkish troops did not have to be situated in the north and that the GOT would be happy if they were assigned to Baghdad.

3. (C) In a separate earlier conversation, Ilkin had telephoned Ambassador on April 25 to say that the GOT had again heard that the UK was holding a conference April 30 - May 1 to form two multinational divisions. Indicating Turkey's interest in participating, Ilkin said the GOT had already approached the British on this matter. Ilkin said Ankara was holding up its phase IV offer (including the stabilization force) until it heard back from Washington with regard to questions Ankara had raised about the March 26 list of competencies that was distributed to coalition members in Washington. Ambassador reminded Ilkin that no neighboring states had been invited to the UK-led multinational division meeting and that the USG March 26 stabilization list of competencies is a separate matter. Ilkin then asserted that the British could not have organized the London multinational division meeting without US help, implying that Washington should exert influence in attaining a Turkish role under British command.

4. (C) Following his conversation with Ilkin, Ambassador spoke with UK Ambassador Westmacott and agreed that the British would deal with the Turkish request on their own and determine any appropriate Turkish participation.

5. (U) Congressman Wexler has not cleared this cable.  
PEARSON